

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Bulgaria
 SUBJECT Bulgarian Domestic, Foreign, and Military Situation as of July 1953

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REFERENCES

International Situation

1. The international situation of Bulgaria is characterized by the following:
 - a. A few concrete signs of a real policy aimed at reducing tensions, such as:
 - (1) Agreement of the Government to constitute a mixed commission with Greece for solving the frontier problems, and signature of a protocol concerning methods to be used for delineating the border line; and
 - (2) Recently improved and more cordial relations with Israel.
 - b. Press propaganda on the Korean armistice, presented as a "great victory" of the peoples' democracies;

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- d. Intense propaganda in Sofia and in the major cities of Bulgaria for the Fourth Youth Festival in Bucharest.

Domestic Situation

2. The domestic situation is calm with no outstanding events reported. More specifically:
 - a. The calm, which is more apparent than real, is maintained by strong police measures, reveals clear symptoms of anxiety, nervousness, and unrest, and expectancy of important events, particularly after the occurrences in Germany, Czechoslovakia, and Hungary;

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- b. The people are afraid of the policy of reducing tensions because it appeases the spirit of rebellion of the masses and stabilizes the present situation, while they ardently hope for a revolution or a general conflict which would overthrow the present government and bring about the return of the true institutional and constitutional liberties;
- c. The serious crisis which took place in the distribution of electric energy brought about serious restrictions in electrical consumption; and
- d. The publication of lists of income taxes, which have been doubled, has:
 - (1) Caused serious discontent among the population, evidenced by the protests sent to newspapers; and
 - (2) Forced the Government to prudently retreat, deciding in favor of a return to the old tax rates.

Military Situation

- 3. The military situation in Bulgaria may be characterized as follows:
 - a. Retention of units in the field where intense training, centered around small units (infantry regiments or artillery groups), is being carried out;
 - b. Numerous and large size recalls of reservists, of the 1917, 1920, 1922 and 1923 classes, lasting one to three months and only involving specialized personnel;
 - c. Probable creation of eight machine gunners battalions, equipped with heavy weapons, placed in direct subordination to the Ministry of Interior, and assigned to internal security tasks (this report has not been confirmed); and
 - d. Continuation of road-building programs and construction of airfields and fortifications among which those recently completed between Sofia and Slivmitsa, and in the vicinity of the port of Varna.

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